

Week of September 2, 2002: MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Labor Day Holiday and Tourism Safety

Monday:

Facts:

More than 300 crashes occur each year in Maine on Labor Day weekend.

Tips:

Many people will be on the road this week. If you are traveling, make sure that you and your vehicle are ready for the trip.

Here's a pre-trip vehicle checklist:

Vehicle:

- Fluids at proper levels? (Oil, coolant, brake fluid, windshield washer)
- How are your tires? (properly inflated, adequate tread)
- Are brakes functioning properly?
- Any repairs that you have been delaying? Get them done-do not take chances.
- Headlights, tail lights, directional signals, and side marker lights all working? (properly operating lights allow you to see and be seen)
- Windshield wipers working well? (wiper blades should be periodically replaced).
- Have you packed so visibility is clear and luggage is secure?

Driver:

- Be caught up on your rest before traveling
- Plan your route

Passengers:

- Pack activities for kids to use in the car

Wednesday:

Many Americans are on the road this week and MaineDOT reminds you to be a "Road Model" and drive safely.

The real key to crash prevention is safe driving behavior. Here are some reminders to keep you safe on the road:

- Be rested before taking the wheel.
- Driving is a full time task. Don't let distractions take your eyes or your mind from what is happening on the roadway.
- Maintain safe speeds.
- Be ready to safely react to problems on the road or the actions of other drivers.
- Make sure the driver of your vehicle is sober.
- Leave adequate space between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Make sure everyone buckles up.
- Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.
- Stay calm, and enjoy the ride! When driving-"Just Drive!"

Friday:**Fact:**

During the last five years 11 people were killed and another 900 were injured on Maine roads during Labor Day weekend.

Tips:

When you are out traveling this last long weekend of the summer, remember:

- Drive safely through construction work zones.
 - Drive at the posted speed limit and work zone speed limit.
 - Drive with caution, concentration and common sense.
 - Stay alert for changing road and traffic conditions.
- Expect holiday traffic delays. (Leave yourself extra travel time)
(If you leave late, expect to arrive late.)
- Watch out for:
 - Pedestrians
 - Bicyclists
 - Moose and deer
- Enjoy your trip!